Amendment after final not entered.

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition comprising

a. an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halobutyl rubber, ethylene propylene rubber, crosslinked polyethylene rubber, neoprenes, chlorinated polyethylene rubbers, silicone rubbers, thermoplastic rubber and mixtures thereof;

b. one or more antidegradants; and

c. surfactant containing a thio functionality, wherein the surfactant is a thioether.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 2, wherein the surfactant further comprises an ether thioether of the formula:

$$H_9C_4\text{-}(O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}S\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O\text{-})_n\text{-}C_4H_9.$$

4. (Previously Presented) An elastomer based rubber composition comprising per 100 parts of elastomer, about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality.

5. (Previously Presented) An elastomer based rubber composition comprising per 100 parts of elastomer, about 0.02-10 parts of a thioether surfactant.

6. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 4, wherein the elastomer has unsaturation in the polymer backbone.

7. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 4 wherein the surfactant is an ether thioether of the formula:

$$H_9C_4\text{-}(O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}S\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O\text{-})_n\text{-}C_4H_9.$$

8. (Currently Amended) A vulcanized tire sidewall comprising based on 100 part of elastomer about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality, wherein the surfactant is a thioether.

9. (Currently Amended) A tire comprising a vulcanized sidewall component comprising a surfactant containing a thio functionality, wherein the surfactant is a thioether.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a film on the exposed surface of vulcanized rubber, comprising;

adding about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality to a rubber composition,

curing said rubber composition,

exposing the cured rubber composition to ozone;

wherein the surfactant is a thioether.

11. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the elastomer contains functional groups.

12. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises at least one reinforcing filler.

13. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises sulfur.

14. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the antidegradant comprises a wax.

15. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the elastomer is selected from the group consisting of: natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, and polybutadiene rubber.

16. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition is exclusive of an alkali metal salt of an alkylsulphonic or alkylsulphuric acid.

17. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 9, wherein the surfactant containing a thio functionality is present in a film on the sidewall component.

18. (Previously Presented) The vulcanized tire sidewall of Claim 8, further comprising one or more antidegradants.

19. (Previously Presented) The vulcanized tire sidewall of Claim 8, wherein the antidegradant comprises a wax.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising adding one or more antidegradants to the rubber composition.